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Letter dated 19 February 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward herewith the communiqué of the sixth meeting of the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, held on 16 February 2009, under the auspices of the Facilitator of the inter-Ivorian Direct Dialogue, Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso (see annex).

I should be grateful if this communiqué could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Paul Robert **Tiendrebeogo**
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 19 February 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

Inter-Ivorian direct dialogue: sixth meeting of the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee

Ouagadougou, 16 February 2009

Final communiqué

1. At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso, Facilitator of the inter-Ivorian direct dialogue, the sixth meeting of the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement took place in Ouagadougou on 16 February 2009.

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the signatories of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, members of the international consultative organ, new observers, and the Prime Minister and Head of Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Guillaume Soro.

3. In his opening statement, the Facilitator welcomed the holding of the meeting, which had been expanded to include representatives of the international community, whom he commended for their willingness to support the crisis recovery process in Côte d'Ivoire. He welcomed the substantial progress made in the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire, in particular the identification and voter registration operation, which, despite many constraints, was achieving significant results. He said that the signing of the fourth supplementary agreement would make it possible to resolve definitively the military and other issues relating to the reunification of the country. He praised the efforts of President Laurent Gbagbo, Prime Minister Guillaume Soro and all Ivorian actors to bring about recovery from the crisis, and once again thanked the development partners who were contributing to the funding of the various operations. Noting the financial difficulties and other constraints facing the peace process, he once again called on all actors and partners to combine their efforts in order to meet those challenges. He said that the peace process had entered a decisive phase and urged all actors to work effectively towards its successful conclusion.

4. After the consideration and adoption of the agenda for the meeting, the Committee heard statements by Mr. Alcide Djédjé, head of the delegation of the Presidency of Côte d'Ivoire, and Mr. Alain Lobognon, head of the delegation of the Forces nouvelles, as well as Mr. Boureima Badini, Special Representative of the Facilitator in Abidjan, and Mr. Y. J. Choi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Côte d'Ivoire. The speakers expressed their gratitude to the Facilitator for his tireless efforts to promote peace in Côte d'Ivoire. They welcomed the progress made in the peace process since the previous meeting of the Committee, held on 10 July 2008, and particularly since the signing of the fourth supplementary agreement on 22 December 2008. While welcoming the measures taken by the President and the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, they emphasized the need for concerted action to accelerate the process with a view to its culmination in democratic elections in a climate of peace.

5. The Committee members then heard a briefing by the Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission, Mr. Robert Beugré Mambé, on the development of the electoral process, in particular the identification and voter registration operation. He reviewed the registration process and said that it was scheduled to close on 28 February 2009.

6. The Prime Minister, in his statement, reviewed the action taken by the Ivorian Government as part of the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement. Having described the international economic situation, which was unfavourable for Côte d'Ivoire, and highlighted the country's debt burden, he emphasized the progress made in the identification and voter registration process, and with regard to military issues and the redeployment of administration throughout the country. He thanked the country's partners for their support and called on them to continue that support by financing the crisis recovery process.

7. The Committee members commended the Independent Electoral Commission and the various entities involved in the identification process and expressed their satisfaction with the encouraging results of the identification and voter registration operation, under which more than 4,520,948 people had been registered so far or 52.19 per cent of a target population of 8,663,149.

8. They welcomed the progress made to date in the operation to reconstitute lost or destroyed civil registers, which had entered its operational phase in January 2009 and was due to be completed by 28 February 2009. In accordance with the recommendations of the Permanent Consultative Framework, the Committee noted that the Independent Electoral Commission had agreed to make public, as soon as possible, a timeline for the first round of the presidential election in 2009.

9. The Committee members urged the Independent Electoral Commission to produce a realistic timeline for the electoral process, taking due account of all parameters, and in that regard emphasized the need to set a tentative time period for the first round of the 2009 presidential election, so as to make the crisis recovery process more transparent, restore confidence among the Ivorian people and the country's technical and financial partners, and boost the country's economic recovery. They also underlined the need to make every effort to remove the remaining internal and external constraints on the electoral process, relating in particular to the operation to reconstitute lost or destroyed civil registers, the operationalization of the coordination centres for voter registration, the authentication of the electoral roll, the prompt settlement of electoral disputes and relief of the country's external debt.

10. The Committee welcomed the efforts of the Ivorian Government to finance the crisis recovery process and encouraged it to continue mobilizing the financial resources needed for the execution of the most urgent operations.

11. The Committee members thanked the bilateral and multilateral partners for their financial support for the peace process, which had made it possible to fund the elections. The partners reiterated their commitment to give favourable consideration to filling the gap in the election budget, currently estimated at 8 billion CFA francs.

12. The Committee welcomed the signing, in Ouagadougou on 22 December 2008, of the fourth supplementary agreement to the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, which should provide specific solutions for all military issues relating to the reunification of Côte d'Ivoire. The Committee urged the signatories to implement

the agreement rigorously with a view to definitively resolving the issue of disarmament, demobilization and the establishment of the new national army.

13. The Committee members noted with satisfaction the progress made in the redeployment of the judicial administration, in particular the rehabilitation of courts and prisons in the central, northern and western zones, which had made it possible to reinstate judges and their staff in better working conditions.

14. They also noted the steps taken for the redeployment of the tax and customs administration in the central, northern and western zones and, while welcoming the launch of operations for customs clearance and registration of vehicles, they urged the signatories to intensify their efforts for the full and effective re-establishment of a single State exchequer throughout the national territory.

15. While welcoming the contributions of the development partners in terms of reintegration programmes, the Committee urged the partners to support the Ivorian State in the implementation of its economic programmes and the financing of demobilization and reintegration operations, which would ensure that democratic elections were conducted in a climate of peace.

16. The Committee also welcomed the return of large numbers of persons displaced by the war and commended the actions of humanitarian organizations working for their return in close cooperation with the Government.

17. The Committee decided to hold its next meeting in Ouagadougou in April 2009.

18. In his closing statement, the Facilitator congratulated the participants on the results of their work and invited all parties concerned to work for the implementation of the important recommendations adopted by the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee, in particular to implement the measures set out in the fourth supplementary agreement, which also required the urgent mobilization of funds.